5152-7-3

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR FEBRUARY 1990 — APRIL 1990

D.C. Unemployment in February Advances to 5.6%

Area Job Creation Slows To 2.2%—Below U.S. Rate

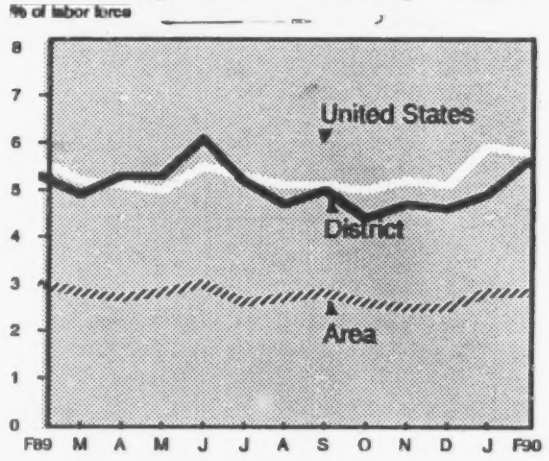
Labor Force

The District's February unemployment rate advanced a significant seven-tenths of a percentage point to 5.6 percent. Despite the relatively large increase, the rate was the second lowest February rate in 18 years, with the exception of February 1989 when the rate was 5.3 percent.

The jobless rate in the Washington suburbs decreased between January and February by a tenth of a point to 2.3 percent. This is a very low rate for the month of February. Monthly market activity in the suburbs and the District had offsetting effects and the unemployment rate for the Washington Area remained unchanged at 2.8 percent.

The seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate for all workers in the United States in February was 5.8 percent. February represents the eighth consecutive month that the District's rate has been below that for the nation.

Unemployment Rates
February 1989 - February 1990



The District

During February, the number of District residents with jobs declined by 5,100 with 2,200 joining the jobless pool and 2,900 leaving the labor force. Like the weather, and perhaps because of the weather, labor force movements in the first two months of this year have been rather erratic. The January unemployment rate of 4.9 percent was lowest for the month in 18 years. On the other hand, the increase in February was the first time there had been an increase between January and February in the past seven years.

Continued on page 3

Government of the District of Columbia
Marion Barry, Jr., Mayor

Department of Employment Services
F. Alexis H. Roberson
Director

The Department of Employment Services

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METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR FEBRUARY 1990 — APRIL 1990

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The *Area Labor Summary* is published monthly by the D.C. Department of Employment Services, 500 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. The Labor Market Information and Research Staff (Richard Groner, Chief) prepares the *Summary*. The following staff members have contributed to the publication and development of data herein: Charles Roeslin, Rufus Daniels, Eileen Dent, Nancy Anderson-Grant, Elsie Taylor, and Gwendolyn Thompson; and administrative support was provided by Robin McDonald.

Inquiries and requests for labor market information may be obtained by writing to the above address, or by calling: (202) 639-1641 or 639-1642.

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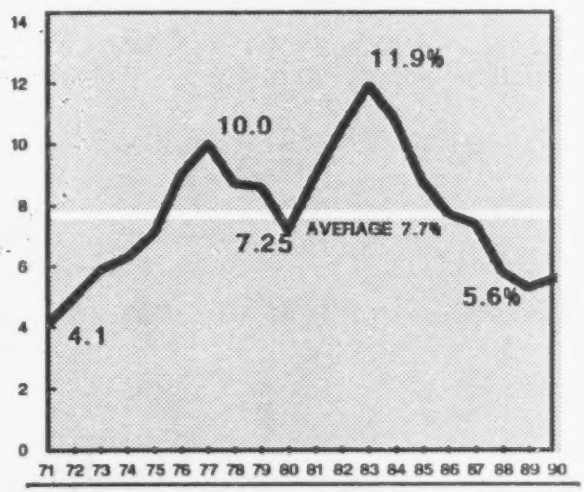
The labor market for District residents is giving mixed signals for the early part of this year.

Compared to the same month last year, there are 13,600 fewer residents in the labor force and 13,900 fewer with jobs. Unemployment, however, is up only slightly by 200 persons. Thus, while unemployment has been rather stable over the year, both the labor force and employment levels have declined rather steeply—4.3 percent for the labor force and 4.6 percent for employment.

District Unemployment Rates In the Month of February 1971 - 1990



The Area & Suburbs

Unlike in the District, both the labor force and employment in the suburbs increased during February. As has been the case for most months in the recent past, the increase of 7,900 working suburbanites exceeded the 5,700 person growth in the labor supply. Thus, the pool of unemployed suburban residents shrunk by 2,200. This decline in unemployment caused the rate to drop to 2.3 percent. This means that the potential supply of suburban labor needed to fuel the traditional spring job expansion during April and May may be rather limited.

Over the year (February 1989 to February 1990) the suburban pattern is the same, employment increased more than the labor force and the number of unemployed declined. Compared to the same time last year, there are now 45,000 more suburbanites with jobs compared to a smaller increase of 42,500 people in the labor supply. Thus, over the year, the suburban jobless rolls dropped by 2,400 and the unemployment rate fell from a low 2.5 percent last February to an even lower 2.3 percent this February.

When market activity in the District and the suburbs is viewed at the Metropolitan Area level, there was little change produced in February. A small increase of only 2,800 people in the Area labor force was completely absorbed in jobs and the number of Area unemployed remained unchanged at 60,800, representing only 2.8 percent of the total Area labor force.

Viewing over-the-year changes at the Area level, offsetting statistical movements in the District and the suburbs produced virtually no

Continued on page 4

Unemployment Rates in the Washington, D.C., MSA by City and County

	Feb.a/ 1990	Jan.b/ 1990	Feb.b/ 1989
District of Columbia	5.6	4.9	5.3
Frederick County	4.2	4.5	4.3
Stafford County	3.9	3.8	2.5
Calvert County	3.6	4.4	4.4
Prince Georges County	2.9	3.0	3.3
Manassas City	2.6	2.5	1.8
Charles County	2.5	2.6	2.8
Alexandria City	2.5	2.6	2.4
Prince William County	2.4	2.7	2.1
Manassas Park City	2.4	2.2	1.6
Montgomery County	2.0	2.0	2.3
Loudoun County	1.9	2.0	1.7
Arlington County	1.8	2.1	2.1
Fairfax City	1.8	1.7	2.0
Fairfax County	1.6	1.8	1.8
Falls Church City	1.3	1.7	2.2

a/ Preliminary.
b/ Revised.
SOURCE: The Department of Employment Services, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the Virginia Employment Commission.

Employment Status for the Civilian Population
District of Columbia, Suburban Ring, and the Washington, D.C. MSA
February 1990[a/]

	Feb.[b/] 1990	Jan.[c/] 1990	Feb.[d/] 1989	Jan.[d/] 1989	Net Change From Jan.[c/] 1990	Net Change From Feb. 1989
Washington, D.C.						
Civilian Labor Force	304,100	307,000	317,700	318,700	-2,900	-13,600
Total Employed	287,000	292,100	300,900	301,400	-5,100	-13,900
Total Unemployed	17,100	14,900	16,900	17,300	2,200	200
Unemployment Rate[e/]	5.6	4.9	5.3	5.4	0.7	0.3
Suburban Ring						
Civilian Labor Force	1,902,800	1,897,100	1,860,300	1,864,700	5,700	42,500
Total Employed	1,859,100	1,851,200	1,814,100	1,818,900	7,900	45,000
Total Unemployed	43,700	45,900	46,100	45,700	-2,200	-2,400
Unemployment Rate[e/]	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	-0.1	-0.2
Washington, D.C. MSA						
Civilian Labor Force	2,206,900	2,204,100	2,178,000	2,183,400	2,800	28,900
Total Employed	2,146,100	2,143,300	2,115,000	2,120,300	2,800	31,100
Total Unemployed	60,800	60,800	63,000	63,000	—	-2,200
Unemployment Rate[e/]	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	—	-0.1

a Detail may not add to the totals due to independent rounding. b. Preliminary. c. Revised.
d. Data reflects Benchmark Revisions. e. Seasonally unadjusted.

Estimated Labor Force and Employment for the Washington Metropolitan Area includes the District of Columbia; the Virginia cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park; the Virginia Counties of Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William, Loudoun, and Stafford; and the Maryland Counties of Montgomery, Prince Georges, Charles, Frederick, and Calvert.

Source: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Continued from page 3

change in the metropolitan market. Between February 1989 and February 1990, only 28,900 new workers were added to the metropolitan labor pool and 31,100 to employer work forces. This was only a 1.3 percent increase in the labor supply and a 1.5 percent increase in employment, both relatively small over the year changes. This is another signal that growth in the local economy has slowed. In fact, the small growth in the labor pool may indicate that the labor supply may be a major contributor to slowing of job creation in the Washington Area. If a tight labor supply was not directly contributing to this sluggish growth, the market would probably show a slowing rate of job creation accompanied by increasing unemployment. While Area job creation has slowed, there is no corresponding increase in unemployment.

Labor Force Distribution
Washington Metropolitan Area
February 1990 & February 1989
(percent)

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed
		February 1990	
Area	100.0	100.0	100.0
District	13.8	13.4	28.1
Suburbs	86.2	86.6	71.9
		February 1989	
Area	100.0	100.0	100.0
District	14.6	14.2	26.8
Suburbs	85.4	85.8	73.2

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

The number of individuals receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits totaled 9,498 in February 1990 down 938 claimants from January. In February, 56 percent of all UI claimants were males. Occupationally, professional technical and managerial workers accounted for 24 percent of the total claimants. This was followed by clerical and sales workers registering 23 percent and service workers recording 22 percent.

The median duration of the current spell of insured unemployment was 9.6 weeks for all claimants in February. Over the month, the duration for males rose from 8.6 weeks to 9.5 weeks. For females, the duration increased from 9.3 weeks to 9.8 weeks. In February 1989, the average duration for males was 9.1 weeks and for females 9.8 weeks.

Job Growth

The District

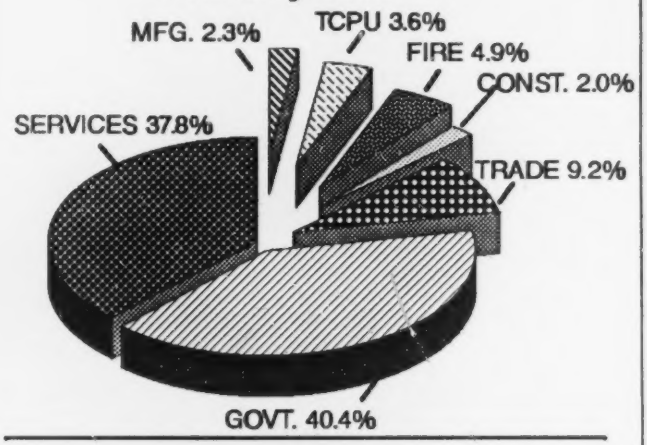
The number of jobs in the District increased by 3,300 for a gain of 0.5 percent between January and February. The private sector accounted for all of the growth with gains in Services (3,300 jobs). Seasonal gains in Educational Services (1,100 jobs) and Hotels (700 jobs) were primarily responsible for the increase in Services.

The public sector declined by 400 with a loss in Federal Government (1,200 jobs) partially offset by an increase in State and Local Government (800 jobs).

Over the year (February 1989 to February 1990), the number of District jobs increased 1.9 percent for a gain of 12,800 jobs. **The private sector grew at a rate of 2.8 percent, generating 11,000 jobs and accounting for 86 percent of total growth.** The leading job producer Services, contributed 9,500 jobs and accounted for 74 percent of all new jobs. The major components of Services growth were Legal Services (2,200 jobs), Engineering and Management Services (1,800 jobs), Business Services (1,500 jobs), Hotels (1,300 jobs) and Health Services (1,000 jobs).

The public sector grew at a rate of 0.7 percent with gains in both Federal Government (1,500 jobs) and State and Local Government (300 jobs).

Distribution of District Jobs
February 1990



The Suburbs

The number of suburban jobs decreased 0.1 percent for a loss of 1,300 jobs between January and February. The private sector accounted for all of the loss with a seasonal decline in Trade (5,800 jobs) partially offset by growth in Services (2,100 jobs).

The Virginia suburbs were responsible for 53 percent of the decline in Trade while the Maryland suburbs accounted for 57 percent of the Services growth.

The public sector increased by 3,300 jobs with gains in State and Local Government (3,700 jobs) partially offset by a loss in Federal Government (400 jobs). Three-fourths of the State and Local increase and all of the Federal decline occurred in the Maryland suburbs.

Over the year (February 1989 to February 1990), suburban jobs grew at a rate of 2.3 percent for a gain of 34,400 jobs. **The Virginia suburbs grew at a rate of 2.9 percent accounting**

Continued on page 6

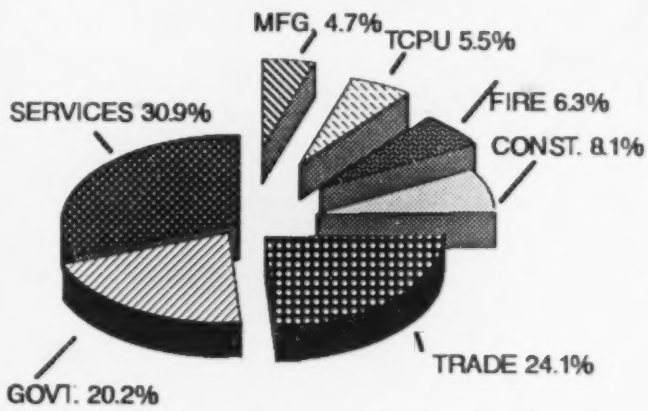
Continued from page 5

for 63 percent of suburban growth while the Maryland suburbs increased at a rate of 1.8 percent.

The private sector accounted for 73 percent of all new suburban jobs with the primary job producers, Services (13,800 jobs) and Trade (8,500 jobs) responsible for 89 percent of private sector growth. Two-thirds of the growth in these two industries occurred in the Virginia suburbs. The Virginia suburbs were also responsible for 70 percent of the growth in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (3,400 jobs) and Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities (1,300 jobs).

In the public sector, gains in both State and Local Government (6,400 jobs) and Federal Government (3,000 jobs) resulted in growth over the year of 3.1 percent.

Distribution of Suburban Jobs
February 1990



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The Area

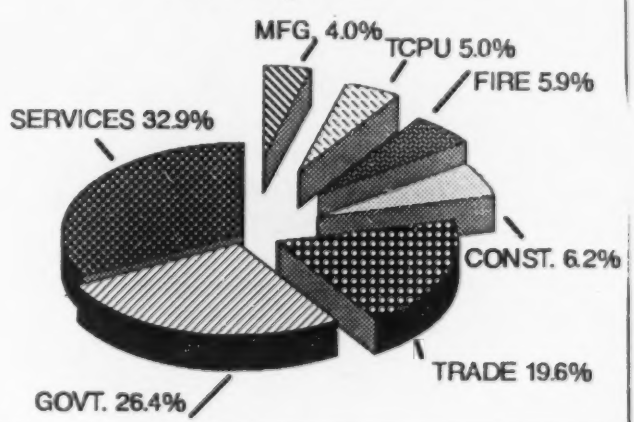
The Washington Metropolitan Area gained 2,000 jobs between December and January for an increase of 0.1 percent. **The public sector was responsible for all of the increase with seasonal gains in State and Local Government (4,500 jobs) partially offset by a loss in Federal Government (1,600 jobs).**

The private sector decreased by 0.1 percent with seasonal losses in Trade (5,600 jobs) virtually offset by a gain in Services (5,400 jobs).

Over the year (February 1989 to February 1990), the Area grew at a rate of 2.2 percent for a gain of 47,200 jobs. The private sector grew at a rate of 2.2 percent, generating 36,000 jobs and producing 76 percent of all new area jobs. The leading job contributor, Services (23,300 jobs), was responsible for 65 percent of all new private sector jobs. Significant private sector growth was also generated by Trade (9,200 jobs), Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate (3,200 jobs) and Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities (1,500 jobs).

The public sector grew at a rate of 1.9 percent with growth of 3.1 percent in State and Local Government (6,700 jobs) and 1.2 percent in Federal Government (4,500 jobs).

Distribution of Area Jobs
February 1990



Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work[a/]
(in thousands)

INDUSTRY	District of Columbia			Metropolitan Area		
	Feb.[b/] 1990	Jan.[c/] 1990	Feb.[c/] 1989	Feb.[b/] 1990	Jan.[c/] 1990	Feb.[c/] 1989
TOTAL	**683.8**	**680.5**	**671.0**	**2,232.7**	**2,230.7**	**2,185.5**
Total Private Sector	**407.7**	**404.0**	**396.7**	**1,642.8**	**1,643.7**	**1,606.8**
Total Government	**276.1**	**276.5**	**274.3**	**589.9**	**587.0**	**578.7**
Total Goods Producing	**30.0**	**29.9**	**29.2**	**229.1**	**230.0**	**230.3**
Manufacturing	**16.0**	**16.0**	**15.6**	**89.2**	**89.5**	**88.1**
Total Durables	2.3	2.3	2.3	43.1	43.3	43.4
Stone, Clay, Glass Products	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.2	3.2	3.2
Electronic & Electric Equip.	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.3	17.4	17.4
All Other Durable	N/A	N/A	N/A	22.6	22.7	22.8
Total Non-Durable	13.7	13.7	13.3	46.1	46.2	44.7
Food & Kindred Products	0.3	0.3	0.3	4.6	4.7	4.4
Printing & Publishing	13.0	13.0	12.6	35.6	35.6	34.4
All Other Non-Durable	0.4	0.4	0.4	5.9	5.9	5.9
Mining	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**1.1**	**1.1**	**1.0**
Construction	**13.9**	**13.8**	**13.5**	**138.8**	**139.4**	**141.2**
Total Service Producing	**653.8**	**650.6**	**641.8**	**2,003.6**	**2,000.7**	**1,955.2**
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	**24.7**	**24.6**	**24.5**	**110.6**	**110.7**	**109.1**
All Transportation	9.7	9.6	9.3	55.8	56.0	53.7
Railroads	4.1	4.1	4.0	5.2	5.2	5.1
Transportation ex. Railroad	5.6	5.5	5.3	50.6	50.8	48.6
Communications & Public Utilities	15.0	15.0	15.2	54.8	54.7	55.4
Trade	**62.7**	**62.5**	**62.0**	**436.6**	**442.2**	**427.4**
Wholesale	8.1	8.2	8.2	77.4	78.1	77.4
Retail	54.6	54.3	53.8	359.2	364.1	350.0
General Merchandise	N/A	N/A	N/A	40.3	43.5	38.9
Food Stores	N/A	N/A	N/A	52.2	52.3	48.0
Automotive	N/A	N/A	N/A	38.2	38.0	38.8
Apparel & Accessories	N/A	N/A	N/A	27.2	28.4	27.7
Eating & Drinking Places	27.3	27.0	26.7	115.1	114.2	113.4
All Other Retail	27.3	27.3	27.1	86.2	87.7	83.2
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	**33.2**	**33.2**	**33.4**	**131.2**	**130.9**	**128.0**
Finance	15.7	15.8	16.0	61.1	61.1	58.9
Depository Institutions	9.0	9.0	9.2	40.2	40.1	38.1
Other Finance	6.7	6.8	6.8	20.9	21.0	20.8
Insurance	7.6	7.6	7.6	26.8	26.9	26.6
Real Estate	9.9	9.8	9.8	43.3	42.9	42.5
Services	**257.1**	**253.8**	**247.6**	**735.3**	**729.9**	**712.0**
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	16.7	16.0	15.4	36.3	35.3	34.2
Personal Services	3.6	3.6	3.6	23.6	23.0	22.9

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work[a]
(in thousands)

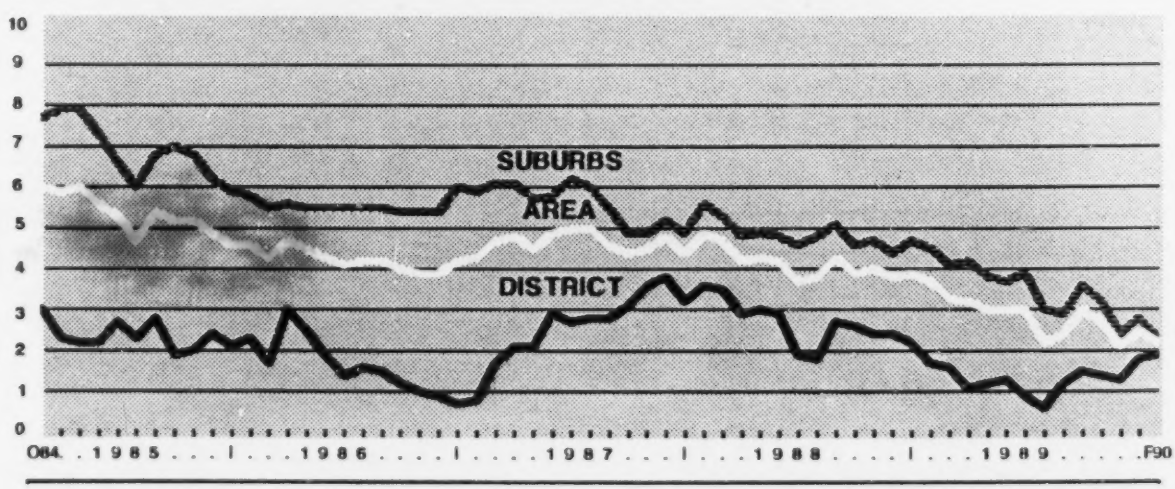
	District of Columbia			Metropolitan Area		
INDUSTRY	Feb.[b] 1990	Jan.[c] 1990	Feb.[c] 1989	Feb.[b] 1990	Jan.[c] 1990	Feb.[c] 1989
Business Services	39.7	39.5	38.2	179.6	179.3	174.5
Services to Buildings	15.1	15.0	14.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Personnel Supply	8.7	8.7	8.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Computer & Data Process	6.1	6.1	5.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Business Services	9.8	9.7	9.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Health Services	37.3	37.0	36.3	113.4	112.6	109.7
Legal Services	30.0	29.6	27.8	40.8	40.3	37.9
Educational Services	30.3	29.2	30.3	43.9	42.6	43.4
Social Services	12.1	12.1	11.2	33.5	33.4	31.8
Membership Organizations	33.3	33.2	33.1	59.3	59.0	58.3
Engineering/Management Ser.	43.8	43.5	42.0	145.3	145.2	142.5
All Other Services	10.3	10.1	9.7	59.6	59.2	56.8
Government	**276.1**	**276.5**	**274.3**	**589.9**	**587.0**	**578.7**
Federal Government	219.6	220.8	218.1	365.1	366.7	360.6
State & Local Government	56.5	55.7	56.2	224.8	220.3	218.1
State Government	51.7	50.9	51.4	82.4	80.1	81.1
Local Government	N/A	N/A	N/A	142.4	140.2	137.0
Public Transportation	4.8	4.8	4.8	N/A	N/A	N/A

a. Detail may not add to totals due to independent rounding. b. Preliminary. c. Revised.

Data includes all full- and part-time employees who worked during or received pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and private household workers are excluded.

Source: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Monthly Over-The-Year Rate of Job Growth
October 1984 - February 1990



Area Job Growth Rates

Over the past 64 months, (October 1984 to February 1990), the Washington Area has created new jobs at a rate of 4.4 percent. Measured by monthly over-the-year changes, however, the rate of growth has been steadily declining after peaking at 6.8 percent in December 1984. Between February 1989 and February 1990, the Area's job growth slowed to 2.2 percent. The over-the-year rate this February was also much smaller than the 3.7 percent recorded in February of last year.

The Suburban portion of the Area is still the generator of most new jobs, having grown over the past year at a rate of 2.3 percent. Compared to the same period last year, growth was much slower than the 4.5 percent registered in February 1989. **In fact, the over-the-year suburban growth rate recorded in February was the lowest for all of the 64 months in the study.** Over the past year, the District proper has added new jobs at a rate of 1.9 percent, but less than its 64 month average of 2.2 percent. In February 1989, the annual job creation rate in the City was 1.7 percent.

In absolute terms, job creation in the Area has declined from 104,900 new jobs produced between February 1984 and February 1985, to 47,200 between February 1989 and February 1990. Over the past year, 34,400 new jobs were added to the Suburban economy and 12,800 in the District. **Over the past year, the Washington Area created new jobs at a slower pace than the U.S. economy (2.2 percent vs. 2.4 percent for the U.S. economy).**

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Profile of Job Growth Rates
October 1984 to February 1990

The Area	
Average 64 months	4.4%
High, December 1984	6.8%
Low, December 1989	2.1%
1-year ago	3.7%
Current month	2.2%
The Suburbs	
Average 64 months	5.4%
High, January 1985	8.4%
Low, February 1990	2.3%
1-year ago	4.5%
Current month	2.3%
The District	
Average 64 months	2.2%
High, October 1984	4.4%
Low, August 1989	0.6%
1-year ago	1.7%
Current month	1.9%

NOTE: Data reflects benchmark revisions for 1988-1989.

Continued on page 11

LABOR FORCE PROFILE:

The Duration of Unemployment 1983-1988

Unemployment rates are the most common measurement of the severity of unemployment, but equally important is the length of time that unemployed people remain unemployed. For example in 1983 when the District's unemployment rate was a record high 11.7 percent, the average duration of unemployed was 19.9 weeks, or nearly 5 months. In 1988, when the District's unemployment rate dropped to only 5.0 percent, the average duration fell to 9.4 weeks or a little over 2 months.

This Profile examines the average duration of unemployment over the period 1983-1988 which coincides with the economic recovery from the recessions of the early 1980's. Comparisons are made for the national economy, the Washington Area and the District. Differences among selected demographic groups for 1983 and 1988 are also examined. The data used are annual averages from the Current Population Survey (CPS).

Unemployment and Duration 1983-1988

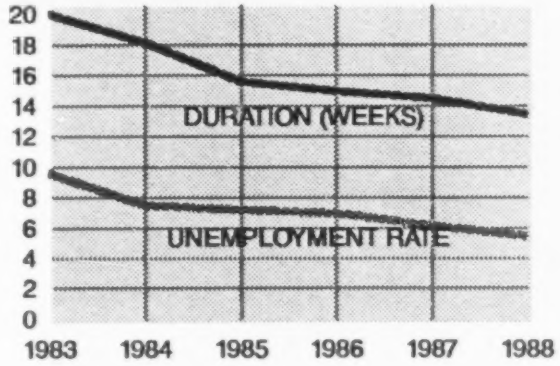
Over the five-year period covered in the study, both the unemployment rate and average duration of unemployment declined more steeply in the District than in the United States and in the Washington Area. The District's unemployment rate declined 6.7 percentage points, while the average duration of unemployment fell 10.5 weeks. This compares to a 4.1 percentage point decline in the U.S. unemployment rate and only a 6.5 week decline in the average duration. For the Area, a 2.6 point drop in the unemployment rate was accompanied by a 8.2 week decline in duration. However, only in the District did the duration increase in any one year (from 11.9 weeks in 1985 to 12.9 weeks in 1986). While the District's unemployment rate did not fall below the U.S. rate until 1988, over the whole period, the average duration of unemployment in the District was below the average for the nation.

Duration Among Selected Demographic Groups

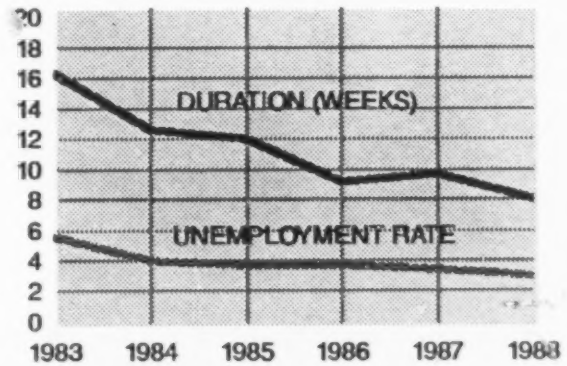
An examination of the duration of unemployment among selected groups for 1983, clearly shows that males were most impacted by the recessions of the early 1980's and, locally, a simultaneous cutback in Federal employment. At the peak of the recession, the longest unemployment duration (30.3 weeks) was among white males who lived in the District. Black males

Duration of Unemployment & Unemployment Rates The United States, The Washington Area & The District 1983 - 1988

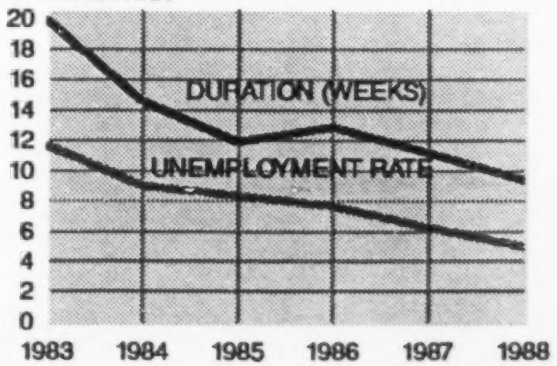
THE UNITED STATES



THE WASHINGTON AREA



THE DISTRICT



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from the District were not far behind with a duration of 22.5 weeks, but this was less than the 25.9 weeks for black men across the nation.

Five years later (1988), duration among all groups of U.S. workers was higher than among either District or Area workers. Comparing 1988 with 1983 shows that the most improvement took place among local males, the group experiencing the longest durations during the earlier recessions. The largest duration decrease—23.5 weeks—occurred among white males from the District, but District black male workers also registered a significant decline of 13 weeks. Females in all jurisdictions tended to show a reduction of about 5 weeks in their duration of unemployment between 1983 and 1988. Only two demographic groups, white females in the Washington Area and female teenagers in the District, recorded a small increase in their unemployment duration between 1983 and 1988—an increase of 1 week for Area females and 0.4 week for teenage females in the District.

Duration of unemployment among teenagers in all jurisdictions, both in 1983 and 1988 was among the lowest, possibly reflecting the fact that teenagers often tend to be in the labor market for short periods of time, for example eight to ten weeks in the summer, or for the holiday shopping period in the fall and early winter.

Observations

The Profile shows that the duration of unemployment in the Washington Area and in the District tends to be less than the average for all american workers both when unemployment is high and when it is low. Males tend to be more sensitive to cyclical swings in the economy both on the upward side and the down side. Changes in duration among females is less dramatic. While duration among teenages is the shortest of any group, probably reflecting their relatively weak attachment to the labor force. The lower durations among local workers is another sign of the tightness in the local labor market. With unemployment low, employers must be less selective and the unemployed are able to find employment more quickly. Still on average, people in the Washington Area are unemployed more than two months, even with low unemployment rates and tight labor markets.

Unemployment Rates and Average Duration of Unemployment
The United States, The Washington Area & The District
1983-1988

	UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (percent)			AVERAGE (MEAN) DURATION (weeks)		
	U.S.	AREA	D.C.	U.S.	AREA	D.C.
1983	9.6	5.6	11.7	20.0	16.3	19.9
1984	7.5	4.0	9.0	18.2	12.6	14.6
1985	7.2	3.7	8.4	15.6	12.0	11.9
1986	7.0	3.7	7.7	15.0	9.2	12.9
1987	6.2	3.4	6.3	14.5	9.7	11.2
1988	5.5	3.0	5.0	13.5	8.1	9.4
CHANGE	-4.1	-2.6	-6.7	-6.5	-8.2	-10.5
% CHANGE	-42.7	-46.4	-57.3	-32.5	-50.3	-52.8

SOURCE: Current Population Survey (CPS)

Continued on page 12

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Duration of Unemployment for Selected Groups The United States, Washington Area & The District 1983 and 1988
(average weeks-annual average ranked by duration in 1988)

	1983	1988	CHANGE IN WEEKS
U.S. Black Males	25.9	16.9	-9.0
U.S. Males	22.7	15.6	-7.1
U.S. Blacks	22.3	15.4	-6.9
U.S. White Males	22.1	15.2	-6.9
U.S. Adults (20+)	21.8	15.0	-6.8
U.S. Black Females	18.1	14.0	-4.1
U.S. Total	**20.0**	**13.5**	**-6.5**
U.S. Whites	19.4	12.9	-6.5
D.C. Female Teens	10.8	11.2	0.4
U.S. Females	16.1	11.0	-5.1
D.C. Adults	21.6	10.7	-10.9
D.C. Black Females	14.9	10.6	-4.3
D.C. Blacks	19.5	10.1	-9.4
U.S. White Females	15.4	10.0	-5.4
D.C. Females	15.1	10.0	-5.1
D.C. Black Males	22.5	9.5	-13.0
D.C. Total	**19.9**	**9.4**	**-10.5**
Area White Females	8.2	9.2	1.0
Area Black Males	21.8	9.0	-12.8
D.C. Males	23.0	8.9	-14.1
Area Blacks	18.8	8.9	-9.9
Area Black Females	14.6	8.8	-5.8
Area Male Teens	10.5	8.7	-1.8
Area Females	11.4	8.6	-2.8
Area Total	**16.3**	**8.1**	**-8.2**
Area Whites	14.0	7.7	-6.3
Area Adults	18.3	7.5	-10.8
U.S. Male Teens	12.3	7.5	-4.8
Area Males	20.1	7.4	-12.7
U.S. Teens	11.0	7.0	-4.0
D.C. White Males	**30.3**	**6.8**	**-23.5**
D.C. Male Teens	12.7	6.8	-5.9
D.C. Whites	25.1	6.7	-18.4
D.C. White Females	17.5	6.6	-10.9
U.S. Female Teens	9.5	6.5	-3.0
Area White Males	19.0	5.9	-13.1
D.C. Teens	11.7	5.5	-6.2
Area Teens	8.6	3.1	-5.5
Area Female Teens	6.7	1.7	-5.0

SOURCE: Current Population Survey (CPS)

Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Areas

In January 1990, the Bureau of Labor Statistics ranked 241 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) by preliminary unemployment rates. The Washington Area's unemployment rate was 2.7 percent up from 2.5 percent posted in December. This was the ninth lowest rate of the 241 areas reporting. A year ago, the Washington Area rate was also 2.7 percent.

Comparing the Washington Area with other large metropolitan areas nationwide, the Washington Area's rate at 2.7 percent was the lowest of all the major metropolitan areas. Areas with the next lowest rates were 3.3 percent in San Francisco, 3.5 percent in St. Paul-Minneapolis and Boston, 3.7 percent in Phoenix, 3.8 percent in San Diego and Nashville, and 3.9 percent in Oakland.

The Richmond-Petersburg Area, 110 miles to the south of Washington, posted a January jobless rate of 3.6 percent down from 3.7 percent reported in December. A year ago, the rate was also 3.7 percent.

The Baltimore Area, only 35 miles north of Washington, recorded a January jobless rate of 4.5 percent up from 3.6 percent registered in December. A year ago, the Baltimore rate was 6.7 percent.

Of the 241 metropolitan areas for which January data are available, 53 had over-the-year decreases in their unemployment rate of 1 percentage point or more, and 47 had increases of that magnitude. Forty-three areas had rates at or below 4 percent, and 33 had rates of 8 percent or more.

States

When the District of Columbia (with a January preliminary unemployment rate of 4.9 percent) was ranked with the 50 States, the District had the thirty-fifth lowest jobless rate in the country. This was eleven notches below December's standing. Virginia's rate at 4.6 percent was up from 4.0 percent recorded in December. Maryland's rate was also up from 3.4 percent to 4.1 percent. Virginia and Maryland ranked forty-first and forty-ninth, respectively, in the standings of the 51 jurisdictions. A year ago, the rates in Virginia and Maryland were 4.4 percent and 4.2 percent, respectively.

Nine states reported over-the-year declines of 1 percentage point or more in their unemployment rate. The largest decrease was in Louisiana (2.8 percentage points). Over-the-year increases of 1 percentage point or more occurred in seven states—Rhode Island (3.2 points), New Hampshire (1.9 points), Michigan (1.6 points), Connecticut and Massachusetts (both 1.2 points), and Vermont and Wisconsin (both 1.0 point).

January unemployment rates were below 4 percent in two states—Hawaii (2.9 percent) and Nebraska (3.1 percent). Michigan (9.4 percent) and West Virginia (9.1 percent) had the highest rates.

Cities

In comparison with the 25 selected central cities, the District of Columbia (with a January preliminary rate of 4.9 percent) had the fourth lowest jobless rate. This was two notches below the position held last month. The average unemployment rate of all 26 cities edged up from 6.6 percent in December to 6.9 percent in January. A year ago, the rate also was 6.6 percent. There were ten cities with rates of 6 percent or below. The District of Columbia was in this grouping.

Gary joined Detroit in the double-digit column in January. Gary's rate at 10.1 percent was up from 9.4 percent recorded in December. This is the first time in 11 months that Gary has been in the double digit grouping. Detroit's rate was also up over the month, rising from 10.6 percent in December to 12.0 percent in January. A year ago, Detroit's rate was 10.9 percent, while Gary's was 9.4 percent.

Of the 26 selected central cities, only ten reported declines in joblessness over the year. **On the other hand, thirteen posted increases in unemployment.** Three cities reported rates unchanged over the year. The unemployment rates among the 26 central cities have been edging upwards for the last six months or so. The largest increases were reported in Los Angeles (1.6 percent), Dayton (1.5 percent), New York (1.3 percent) and Milwaukee and Detroit (1.1 percent each). The largest over-the-year decrease in joblessness was posted by New Orleans (3.9 percent). This was followed by Buffalo (2.1 percent) and Birmingham (2.0 percent). Salt Lake City, Columbus, and Baltimore reported no changes in their jobless rates at 4.4 percent, 5.9 percent, and 6.7 percent, respectively.

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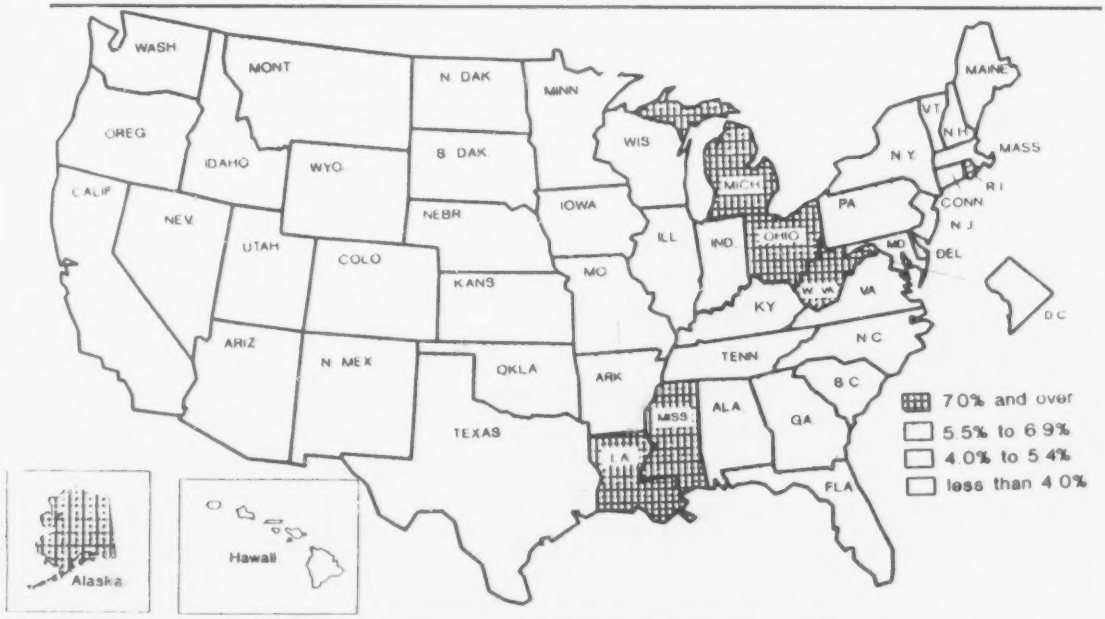
Unemployment rates by state, January 1990



Unemployment Rates in Selected Cities*

	January	
	1990	**1989**
1. San Francisco, CA	4.0	4.3
2. Boston, MA	4.3	3.5
3. Salt Lake City, UT	4.4	4.4
4. District of Columbia	**4.9**	**5.3**
5. Houston, TX	5.1	7.0
6. Pittsburgh, PA	5.2	4.7
7. Dallas, TX	5.3	6.8
8. Milwaukee, WI	5.6	4.5
9. Philadelphia, PA	5.9	5.1
10. Columbus, OH	5.9	5.9
11. Cincinnati, OH	6.4	6.2
12. New Orleans, LA	6.4	10.3
13. Los Angeles, CA	6.6	5.0
14. Baltimore, MD	6.7	6.7
15. Atlanta, GA	6.7	6.9
16. Birmingham, AL	6.8	8.8
17. New York, NY	7.0	5.7
18. Chicago, IL	7.7	7.0
19. Miami, FL	7.7	7.8
20. Buffalo, NY	7.8	9.9
21. St. Louis, MO	8.9	8.4
22. Cleveland, OH	9.1	9.2
23. Dayton, OH	9.9	8.4
24. Newark, NJ	10.0	9.2
25. Gary, IN	10.1	9.4
26. Detroit, MI	12.0	10.9

*Preliminary unemployment rates.

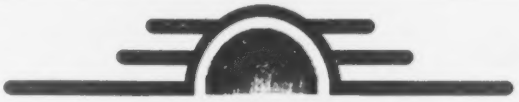
UI Activities—February 1990

There were 2,890 claims filed for unemployment insurance benefits by persons who worked in the District of Columbia during February 1990—a 30 percent drop from January. The decline was expected, as January is a seasonally high month for claims filing purposes. In addition to the change-of-base period, seasonal factor last month, (the unseasonably cold weather in December and January) contributed to the level of January initial claims. Compared to February of last year, the claims level was 7 percent less.

The number of weeks claimed and number of weeks compensated dropped 20 percent each from last month. This movement was counter to the direction in the last several years. It was expected that the high level of claims in January would be reflected by a larger number of weeks claimed and compensated in February. Normally many claims filled in one month are compensated in the following month because of the certification process. This January many people filled early in the month, thus were paid in January and not carried over to February. The same can be seen in total outlay, which increased in prior years from January to February, but declined 20 percent this year. The February outlay was $6.5 million compared to $8.2 million the previous month.

The February 1990 average weekly benefit amount ($200.60) was just slightly lower than the $200.84 registered last month. This is also contrary to previous February experience following a January in which there was a mandated increase in the maximum weekly benefit amount. Effective last month, the maximum increased from $283 to $293. The average weekly amount as a percentage of the maximum this February was 66.2—compared to 67.9 in 1989.

The two-month (January-February) benefit outlay in 1990 is $14.7 million. In 1989, the comparable amount was $13.3 million. The rise in outlay is a reflection of the higher level of the average benefit amount and workload activity during the current period. Weeks compensated in 1990 for the two-month period totaled 73,300 compared to 69,800 in 1989.



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Selected Unemployment Insurance Benefit Statistics
(Regular Programs)
District of Columbia
February 1990

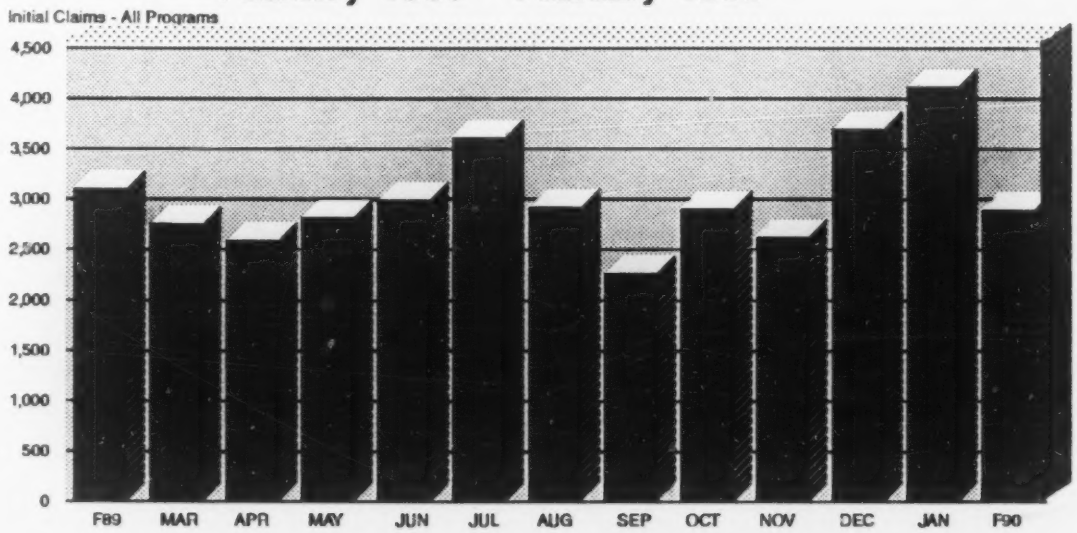
	Feb. 1990	Jan. 1990	Feb. 1989	% Change From Jan. 1990	% Change From Feb 1989
State UI Program [a]					
Initial Claims Taken	2,788	3,985	2,944	-30.0	-5.3
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	32,284	40,129	34,906	-19.5	-7.5
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	30,510	38,207	32,759	-20.1	-6.9
Total Benefits Paid	$6,077,138	$7,619,079	$6,231,763	-20.2	-2.5
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$199.19	$199.42	$190.23	-0.1	+4.7
Number of First Payments	1,672	2,822	1,927	-40.8	-13.2
Number of Final Payments	733	1,039	827	-29.5	-11.4
Total Beneficiaries	9,294	10,197	9,193	-8.9	+1.1
Federal Program [b]					
Initial Claims Taken	73	109	147	-33.0	-50.3
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	1,734	2,139	2,386	-18.9	-27.3
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	1,847	2,315	2,464	-20.2	-25.0
Total Benefits Paid	$413,000	$517,041	$538,817	-20.1	-23.4
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$223.61	$223.34	$218.68	+0.1	+2.3
Number of First Payments	83	96	177	-13.5	-53.1
Number of Final Payments	42	69	67	-39.1	-37.3
Total Beneficiaries	528	566	705	-6.7	-25.1
Ex-Servicepersons Program [c]					
Initial Claims Taken	33	31	21	+6.5	+57.1
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	217	312	251	-30.4	-13.5
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	177	249	208	-28.9	-14.9
Total Benefits Paid	$36,243	$52,257	$40,017	-30.6	-9.4
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$204.76	$209.87	$192.39	-2.4	+6.4
Number of First Payments	21	17	13	+23.5	+61.5
Number of Final Payments	18	19	14	-5.3	+28.6
Total Beneficiaries	60	65	66	-7.7	-9.1
Total—All Programs					
Initial Claims Taken	2,894	4,125	3,112	-29.8	-7.0
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	34,235	42,580	37,543	-19.6	-8.8
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	32,534	40,771	35,431	-20.2	-8.2
Total Benefits Paid	$6,526,381	$8,188,377	$6,810,597	-20.3	-4.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$200.60	$200.84	$192.22	-0.1	+4.4
Number of First Payments	1,776	2,935	2,117	-39.5	-16.1
Number of Final Payments	793	1,127	908	-29.6	-12.7
Total Beneficiaries	9,882	10,828	9,964	-8.7	-0.8

a Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) and/or Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicepersons (UCX)

b Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicepersons (UCX)

c No joint claims

Initial Unemployment Compensation Claims
District of Columbia - All Programs
February 1989 - February 1990



Hours and Earnings in Manufacturing

Total Manufacturing Average Weekly Earnings in the Metropolitan Area for February 1990 increased $5.54. Average Weekly Hours showed a slight increase of .2 hour, as Average Hourly Earnings rose 8 cents.

In the Durable Goods Sector, Stone, Clay and Glass Products reflects an increase in Weekly Earnings of $26.32. Weekly Hours rose 1.1 hours. The Hourly Earnings increased 31 cents, all due to more overtime being worked. Electric Machinery, Equipment and Supplies had the opposite effect with less overtime being worked. This caused a drop in the Weekly Hours of 1.7 hours and the Weekly Earnings of $18.69.

In the Non-Durable Goods Sector, Food and Kindred Products had a longer scheduled workweek which caused the Weekly Earnings to increase $16.23. Weekly Hours rose 2.3 hours.

Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing
Washington Metropolitan Area
February 1990

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. 1990	Jan. 1990	Feb. 1989	Feb. 1990	Jan. 1990	Feb. 1989	Feb. 1990	Jan. 1990	Feb. 1989
Total Manufacturing	476.91	471.37	454.57	38.9	38.7	39.7	12.26	12.18	11.45
Durable Goods	490.39	495.85	463.97	41.7	42.2	43.2	11.76	11.75	10.74
Stone Clay & Glass Products	518.67	492.35	495.38	45.9	44.8	43.8	11.30	10.99	11.31
Electric Machinery, Equipment & Supplies	428.93	447.62	427.23	39.9	41.6	41.6	10.75	10.76	10.27
Other Durable Goods	504.25	511.18	468.06	41.4	41.9	43.5	12.18	12.20	10.76
Non-Durable Goods	464.28	451.98	446.75	36.5	35.9	36.8	12.72	12.59	12.14
Food & Kindred Products	434.19	417.96	409.02	41.0	38.7	40.1	10.59	10.80	10.20
Printing & Publishing	487.87	470.94	476.20	35.2	34.4	35.3	13.86	13.69	13.49
Other Non-Durable Goods	382.55	387.59	359.38	40.1	40.5	40.7	9.54	9.57	8.83

Total Production Workers	Feb. 1990	Jan. 1990	Feb. 1989
	40,300	40,300	41,700

NOTE: Data reflects revision to the 1989 Benchmark

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